

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1 and 17 are canceled, and claims 2, 5, 6, 11-16, 18, 21, 22, and 26-28 are amended. New claims 29-34 have been added. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 2-16 and 18-34 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

In paragraph 4, the Examiner objected to claims 5-13 and 21-26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, the Applicant has rewritten claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 21, 22, and 26 in independent form and has changed the dependencies of claims 2, 14, 15, 16, 18, 27, and 28 to depend variously from the new independent claims.

Claims 3, 4, 7-10, 19-20, and 23-25 depend variously from claims 2, 6, 21, and 22 and are patentable for the same reasons as are claims 2, 6, 21, and 22.


New claims 29-34 depend variously from claims 11 and 12 and are patentable for the same reasons as are claims 11 and 12.

Applicant notes that, in paragraph 4, the Examiner's statement of the reasons for allowing claims 5-13 and 21-26 appears to cite only a portion of the claim language from independent claim(s) 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 21, 22, and 26. The Applicant submits that the independent claims recite additional language. To that extent, the Applicant objects to the statement. In general, to the extent that the statement differs from the language of any of the independent claims, the Applicant rejects any narrowing or limitations that might possibly result from such differences. For each of these reasons individually and for both of these reasons collectively, the Applicant objects to the statement.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

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